[Translation]

Damage to Small Water Channels and Water Mills in Himachal Pradesh

3486. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any damage has been caused to small water channels and water mills in Himachal Pradesh by the Shah Nahar Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has made any request to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Shah Nahar Barrage was constructed in 1983 by Government of Punjab on river Beas downstream of Pong Dam for diversion of water to Mukerian Hydel Channel. A small portion of the barrage falls within the territory of Himachal Pradesh. Due to construction of the barrage, there was some disruption of supplies to existing 'Kuhls' (small water channels) and some 'Gharats' (water mills) were also rendered inoperative.

On 4.8.83, an agreement was signed between the Governments of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh according to which Punjab agreed to supply, on a regular basis without payment of any cost, 228 cusec of water, to bear the cost of the lined carrier channel for irrigating an area of 3465 hectares which were already receiving irrigation prior to the construction of Shah Nahar Barrage, to share the cost of such channels with Himachal Pradesh in the potentially irrigable area of 11822 ha. and to pay suitable compensation for 60 numbers of 'Gharats' (water mills) rendered inoperative.

(b) to (d). The issue relating to compensation for water mills, land and crops is under mutual discussion between the two State Government and no request has been made to the Union Government in this regard.

[English]

Commonwealth Ministers Conference

3487. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Commonwealth Ministers Conference held at Rome was attended by him; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed regarding agricultural situation in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The meeting discussed important issues concerning the World Food and Agriculture Situation, implications of recent advancements in technology for agriculture and strategies for enhancing investments in agriculture, with special focus on the Commonwealth Countries including India.

Exploration of Iron Ore in Kudachadri Hills, Karnataka

3488. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for locating iron ore at Kudachadri Hills in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken for exploration of iron ore there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) had conducted investigation for Magnetitic Iron ore at Kodachadri Hills in Shimoga District of Karnataka and has estimated the presence of this mineral to the extent of 568.73 million tonnes in the Thirthabare Block of Kodachadri Hills, with Iron Ore content varying from 19.97% to 52.79%. In addition, National Mineral development Corporation Ltd (NMDC), a Central Public Sector Undertaking, also carried out initial exploratory work on a small Hematite Deposit at Kodabari, which is a part of the Kodachadri Hills and estimated reserves of 25 million tonnes of grade FE 60-62%.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Irrigation Projects in Uttar Pradesh by Earthquake

3489. SHRI RAM BADAN:
SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the repercussions of the recent earthquake on irrigation projects in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the National Water Development Agency has conducted any study to assess the damage caused to the Pauri-Garhwal Dam by the earthquake;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the recommendations made by the Agency in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) the Government of Uttar Pradesh, based on preliminary estimates, have assessed the damages in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to irrigation works such as irrigation channels, permanent and temporary residential and office buildings, roads, retaining walls and the power house at Tiloth as approximate by Rupees five crores.

(b) to (d). There is no dam by the name of Pauri Garhwal dam. The earthquake has however caused no damage to the constructed structure of Tehri Dam like the head race tunnels, diversions tunnels and dam foundation. The National Water Development Agency has not conducted any study in this regard.

Coal Deposits in Maharashtra

3490. SHRI VILAS MUTTENWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large deposits of coal in Murpar, Nand and Bandergram of Chanderpur district in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof; and

(c) the time by which the mining work is likely to be started there and the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). The details of coal reserves which have been estimated in Morpar, Nand and Bander Blocks of Chanderpur district are as under:-